

Bonner County, Idaho

County Wildfire Protection
Plan (CWPP)

Revised 2008

**Bonner County Wildfire Protection Plan
(CWPP)
Certification and Agreement**

The County Wildfire Protection Plan developed and amended for/by Bonner County:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, fire departments and state and federal land management agencies with jurisdictions in Bonner County have been consulted.
- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel treatment and recommends types and methods of treatment that will protect Bonner County.
- This plan addresses public awareness and education regarding the reduction of the ignitibility of structures throughout the County.
- This plan developed in accordance with Public Law 106-390, Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 contains all the required elements, and serves the same purpose as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. (As described under Public Law 1087-148, Healthy Forest Restoration Act.)

The following entities attest that the standards listed above have been met and mutually agree with the contents of this County Wildfire Protection Plan.




Lewis Rich, Chair
Bonner County Board of Commissioners
4-1-2008

Date



Bob Howard, Dept. of Emergency Management/LEPC
4-1-2008

Date



Edward Robinson
Idaho Department of Lands
4/7/08

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is the latest of many anticipated revisions to this living document. After four years of operation, the plan is being revised to incorporate changes derived from the mitigation work that has been accomplished and to reflect the actual focus of the work on the ground. Many people have contributed to the revision of this Plan and their participation is gratefully acknowledged.

Bonner County CWPP Steering Committee

Bob Hatfield, Chairman
Bob Howard, Bonner County Department of Emergency Management
Bill Love, Idaho Department of Lands
Dave Lux, Forest Service
Kurt Pavlat, Bureau of Land Management
Art Bews, Public Member
Dan Brown, IDL Priest Lake
Matt Butler, Forest Service, Priest Lake
Robert McArthur, Bonner County Fire Chiefs Association
Anna Reed, Administrative Assistant to Committee

Project Manager

Larry Isenberg, Synergistic Solutions, Inc.

Fire Chiefs

John De Bernardi, Spirit Lake Fire District
Les Kokanos, West Pend Oreille Fire District
Paul Madden, Hope/East Hope Fire
Brad Mitton, Northside Fire District
Spencer Newton, Schweitzer Fire District
Rob Goodyear, Sagle Fire District
Forrest Jackson, acting, Coolin-Cavanaugh Bay FPD
George Cordingly, Clark Fork Fire District
Mike Tucker, Westside Fire District
Robert Tyler, Sandpoint Fire Department
Tim Ventress, West Priest Lake Fire District
Bob Wathen, Sam Owen Fire District
Dean Fiedler, North of the Narrows Fire District

Idaho Department of Lands

Chris Remsen, Sandpoint
Dan Brown, Priest Lake
Bill Love, Sandpoint

Forest Service

Dave Lux, Sandpoint RD
Matt Butler, Priest Lake RD
Angelic Koch, Sandpoint RD

Bureau of Land Management

Kurt Pavlat

Kurt Pindell

INTRODUCTION

This annual update references the original plan completed in 2004 which was authored by Inland Forest Management, Inc. BONFIRE has become a viable wildfire mitigation program in Bonner County, Idaho, as evidenced by 4 years of successful hazardous fuels treatment projects which have increased the safety of area residents through completion of 443 projects that treated 670 acres and provided protection to 1235 structures throughout the county.

This past year BONFIRE has given increased emphasis to the creation of shaded fuel breaks as a means of protecting large tracts of developed areas. The primary tool of our hazardous fuels treatments remains the creation of a defensible space around homes and other structures..

A prime example of the shaded fuel break projects is the ongoing work along the access road to Schweitzer Mountain which is about one third completed. This is a single access road that serves many millions of dollars in residential and commercial development associated with Schweitzer Mountain Ski Resort. Participants in the project included BONFIRE, Schweitzer Mountain Development, Schweitzer Fire Department, the City of Sandpoint, BLM, IDL, and US Forest Service. The project runs along both sides of the access road and treats fuels in a band 100 feet below the road and 50 feet above the road. In addition to the shaded fuel break work, we have either contracted with or finished almost all the individual defensible space work at the bottom of the hill between the potentially dangerous rail road and the Granite Ridge homes. Funding is expected to continue the project this year (2008).

In addition to the Schweitzer work has con BONFIRE centrated on other areas in the county which are described as follows:

- Valuable work was completed this year on the Baldy Ridge and Janish Road subdivision area. This was one of the original areas identified in the beginning mitigation plan. All the individual homeowners who applied have been treated, and the neighboring landowner has signed his contract to allow us to build a fuel break to the south and west of the homes.
- BONFIRE also accomplished a significant amount of work around homes in the Hwy 57-Nordman corridor.
- We made great progress in the Clark Fork / Hope area by treating both individual homes and communities.
- Other group projects were completed in Sagle, Vay, Sandpoint, West Oden Bay, and Spirit Lake. This ranged from a couple of homes up to as many as ten. Individual defensible space was provided in many other areas of the county as time and money allowed.

BONFIRE continues to work with the US Forest Service to develop projects in the Priest Lake area. These include Lakeview-Reeder Fuels Reduction Project, Outlet to High Bridge FRP, and Hwy 57 Safety Project. Bonfire is also involved with the US Forest Service on a project at South Grouse which included collaborative attendance at the initial public meeting in Sagle. The program is participating on projects in the vicinity of Elmira in northern Bonner County with the Bureau of Land Management.

The BONFIRE Steering Committee has determined that continued funding of the program at the highest possible levels is vital to provide protection for the lives of residents and fire fighters, and to preserve property, natural resources and economic viability in the County. The development and monitoring of proper maintenance practices for defensible space and shaded fuel breaks, and the implementation of an aggressive public awareness/education program are key elements in continuing the success BONFIRE has achieved. The future of the BONFIRE program looks bright and full of challenges. We have a strong, diverse working group which will continue to address the issues of protecting life, increasing fire fighter safety and preserving the resources that make Bonner County and north Idaho special.

PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

Forest fires are a part of nature-past, present, and future-in Bonner County. Their occurrence is not a matter of if but when. Therefore, homeowners living in the interface between the forest and urban areas must expect to be impacted by wildfire. These homeowners can choose to be proactive before the arrival of the fire or passively accept whatever the fire does to their families and cherished possessions. BONFIRE is dedicated to communicating and accomplishing these proactive actions and programs for the homeowners. The Before and After pictures below show some of these proactive steps, which result in both a safe and pleasing park like situation. We are all in this together and in the case of wildfire, every chain is only as strong as its weakest link.



Terry O'Brien on Rocky Road at
Sagle.

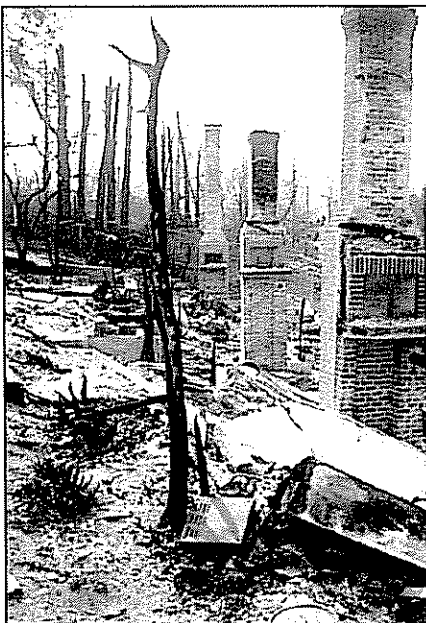
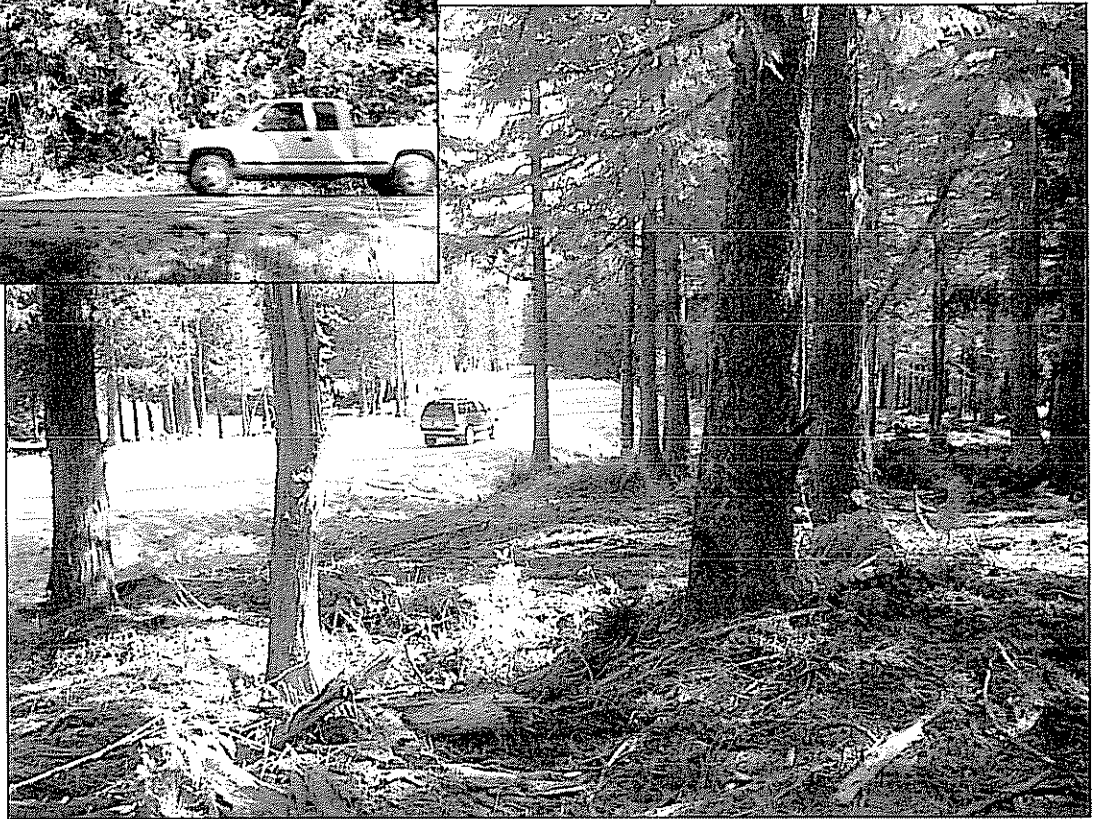
Before





Schweitzer before with a solid wall of flammable cedar trees.

Schweitzer after HFT treatment.



The devastating and traumatic loss of a home to wildfire, which BONFIRE seeks to prevent.



We have made a great start in Bonner County, but there is much left to do. With the rapid influx of new people who love to live in the Wildland Urban Interface area the "left to do list" is undoubtedly greater than our "done list". This common sense program depends on both educating the public and continuing funding. It is with great pleasure that Synergistic Solutions, Inc. is associated with BONFIRE.

Future goals as the Project Manager are as follows:

- Provide as much assistance as funding allows for the creation of defensible space throughout the county.
- Continue and strengthen our education efforts throughout the county. Our focus will be to show the public they both have the ability and are far better off, if they take proactive steps long before wild fire occurs. Some of our plans to pursue are as follows:
 - Increase our efforts with all the media to include any newsworthy successes, plus include informational pieces such as a "tip of the week/month".
 - Schedule group meetings with both future participants and past ones. With the past ones we will focus on maintenance, while with the future ones, we will focus on teaching the whole program.
 - Keep the website updated.
 - Participate in public events such as those held at community centers, grange halls, Farmers' Market, realtors, chambers of commerce, U of Idaho Ext., private industry, and insurance agents.
- Explore and adopt greater efficiencies for all of the above items.

Larry Isenberg, Synergistic Solutions, Inc.
BONFire Project Manager

POPULATION UPDATE

Table 1, on page 2 in the original Plan lists the population of Bonner County since 1960. The table is to be updated by listing the population for 2006 (the most recent year available) at 41,275. This new data is from the US Census Bureau Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Idaho: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (CO-EST2006-01-16).

FIRE HISTORY UPDATE

The most significant fire in Bonner County since the Original Plan was the Plowboy Fire (2006) that burned 1234 acres. That fire combined with the Hughes Fire (in Boundary County) burned the most acreage in the Priest Lake Ranger District since 1939. Nationally we see more fires and larger fires each year as the fuel load increases in areas that have not burned. This gives emphasis to the fact that fires are getting larger and more complex. Additional fires burn each year and those totals have been updated as follows:

Table 3

Cumulative Number of Wildfires by Cause and Acreage for Bonner County

	Human Caused	Lightning Caused	Total
Number of Fires	1202	1131	2333
Number of Acres	6734	7225	13959

Information was contributed by IDL and USFS.

WILDLAND FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

A number of changes are underway for fire risk assessment in Bonner County. The BONFIRE Steering Committee is currently working with the Forest Service office in Missoula, MT to assist us in developing a new risk assessment based on the Idaho State Risk Assessment. With new data and new tools available, we expect to have the most up-to-date assessment available.

We plan to use the latest LANDFIRE fuels data which is currently being "refreshed" to reflect recent disturbances. This data is expected to become available this summer and fall.

BONFIRE will be challenged to define "Risk Assessment" in terms of risk to what and from what. We also have to help identify the appropriate metrics used to identify "risk". This presents new challenges to our committee and we look forward to working on them.

For this year we have continued to rely on the risk assessment done in the original plan (2004) and the input from the local fire chiefs and the resources of the BONFIRE Steering Committee. We have assigned priorities for this year as follows:

Priority 1: Schweitzer / Baldy complex involving the City of Sandpoint municipal watershed, the areas of Westside Fire District, Sandpoint City Fire, Northside Fire District, Schweitzer Fire District and the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Schweitzer, Inc., and private landowners. We will continue the shaded fuel break started in 2007 which should be completed this year. Another project which was just approved by the landowners is the Janish Ridge project which is a shaded fuel break adjacent to a subdivision. The participants are all in agreement with the project now and have completed the necessary paperwork. This is also in the area of the Sandpoint municipal watershed.

Priority 2: Hoodoo Valley involving Spirit Lake Fire District and West Pend Oreille Fire District. This is an area of dense small diameter timber with lots of light flashy fuels. Many homes and developments are occurring in this area of limited water supply, minimal access and a dry windy area of the county. Multiple fuel breaks will be required to address the fire safety in this area.

Priority 3: Gold Hill – Garfield Bay. This is a part of the Granite Hill to Sandpoint Corridor. This area is characterized by steep slopes with south and west

aspects. There is very limited water supply and plenty of fuels. The Forest Service and BLM are both looking at fuel reduction projects in this area. The area serves as a recreational asset for Sandpoint and as a consequence there are many people using official and unofficial trails throughout the year. Poor access to the area does not discourage the recreational use but will deter fire response. Homeowners in the area are requesting projects to improve fuel conditions and access as well. A number of projects are developing here to address these issues.

Priority 4: Highway 57 Corridor and Priest Lake. Several projects are complete in this area but more are planned. Another series of projects are planned to open up the Highway 57 right of way. Forest Service projects are also planned to address the concerns of the West Priest Lake Fire District and the communities of Priest Lake to Nordman.

Priority 5: Highway 200 to Montana Corridor: This area takes in Sunnyside, Oden Bay, Clark Fork, Trestle Creek, Trout Creek, Hope, East Hope and the Sam Owen Peninsula. This area is characterized by steep slopes with South and West aspects. The highway and railroad also add to the infrastructure that is present in the area. Major power lines and communication lines cross here as well. Several projects have been completed here but more is needed to address critical areas of hillside development. This is an area where Firewise Communities, USA will play an important role.

FIRE DISTRICT RESOURCES AND NEEDS

There are 12 fire districts and one (1) City Fire Department in Bonner County with varying degrees of capability. The fire districts are primarily structure protection oriented and will fight wildfires when homes are threatened. The majority of the fire fighters in the fire districts are volunteers. Following is a list of equipment, personnel, and facilities for each of the fire districts/departments in Bonner County. The size of each district is also included. The fire districts/departments in Bonner County were asked to identify equipment and facility needs to help mitigate the risks associated with wildland fire. Each district has updated this information for 2008.

Clark Fork Volunteer Fire Department

The Clark Fork Fire Department has two fire stations in Clark Fork. The district provides services to 77 square miles extending from the Montana border to the eastern shore of Lake Pend Oreille, plus class 8 protection to the City of Clark Fork. Automatic aid is provided to the cities of Hope/East Hope and Sam Owen Fire Protection District. Mutual aid is available to the Heron, Montana Fire District, IDL and the USFS. There are no plans to expand the fire district.

Fire Apparatus includes:

One Type 1 Engine
One Type 2 Engine
One Type 7 Engine
One Type 4 Tender

Personnel:

The Department has twelve volunteer fire fighters.

Needs:

- One 2,100 gallon Tanker/Pumper
- One Interface Type 2/3 Engine
- Twelve new style fire shelters

Coolin-Cavanaugh Bay Fire District

The district covers 6,187 acres and has one fire station located in Coolin. Plans for the future include the construction of a new fire station in Cavanaugh Bay.

Fire apparatus includes:

Two Type 2 Engines (1@1000 gal, 1@1500 gal.)
One Type 6 Engine (CAFS)(350 gal.)
One Fire Boat (600 ftl 1 ½" hose, 300 ft. 2 ½" hose)
10,000 gallon underground water storage tank

Personnel:

The district has eight volunteer fire fighters

Needs:

- New Fire Station in Cavanaugh Bay area
- Community Water System in Coolin
- Structural PPE

- SCBA's, extra masks
- Hose; 5", 2 ½", 1 ¾", nozzles and fittings
- Fire tools, (axes, pike poles, etc)
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Two AED's

Hope/East Hope City Fire Department

The fire district has one fire station located in East Hope and provides structure protection for Hope and East Hope. The district also has automatic aid agreements with Clark Fork and Sam Owen fire districts. The department has no plans for expansion. A future station is planned for the Trestle Creek Idaho Club development.

Fire Apparatus includes:

One Type 2 Engine
 One Type 4 Engine
 One Type 6 Wildland Engine
 One Type 3 Tender
 One Extrication/Rescue vehicle

Personnel:

The department has twelve volunteer fire fighters.

Needs:

- Satellite Station at Trestle Creek Idaho Club development
- Ladder Truck/Quint for Trestle Creek Station
- Boat for water rescue and access to Warren Island
- Additional Type 5 (Wildland) Engine

North of the Narrows Fire District

The district covers 2,270 acres and has one fire station. Plans for the future include the expansion of the existing fire station or the addition of a second station in a more central location.

Fire apparatus includes:

One Type 2 engine
 One Type 5 engine
 One Fire Boat (350 gpm, 100 ft. 2½" hose, and 700 ft. 1½" hose)

Personnel:

The district has 10 year round and 16 seasonal volunteers..

Needs:

- Hose, 2 ½", 1 ½", 1", nozzles and fittings
- Dry hydrants at Bear Creek and Sandpiper Shores
- PPE and SCBA's
- Chainsaws, wildfire packs and new age shelters, wildfire tools
- Communication Equipment
- Addition to current fire station with an additional bay.

Northside Fire District

The district covers 71,313 acres and has four fire stations. The stations are located in Ponderay, north of Ponderay on state highway 95, on Lightning Creek Road and on Samuels Road. There are no plans to expand facilities or district boundaries at this time

Fire apparatus includes:

Five Type 2 Engines

Three Type 6 engines

One 1700 gallon Water Tender

One 1500 gallon Water Tender

One 1000 gallon Water Tender

Personnel:

Two paid and twenty-five volunteer fire fighters..

Needs:

- 9 dry hydrants

Sagle Fire District

The district has five fire stations (one staffed, four volunteer). The stations are located in Sagle (Main Station), Cocollala, Careywood, Seneacquoteen and Bottle Bay. There are no plans for future expansion although relocation of several stations may be necessary if the Highway 95 widening project occurs. The district covers 104,400 acres.

Fire apparatus includes:

Four Type 2 Engines

One Type 3 Engine

Two Type 6 Engines

Two Type 1 Water Tender

One Type 2 Water Tender

Personnel:

Nine full time, 28 volunteers and one chief

Needs:

- 1 Type 6 Engine
- 2 Type 1 or 2 water tenders
- Wildland PPE
- Structure PPE for volunteers
- Structure and Wildland hose, nozzles and fittings
- Communications equipment specifically portable radios, P-25 capable

SamOwen Fire District

The district covers the Riser Creek area and the Hope Peninsula. (Approximately 4.5 square miles.) A new station has been constructed at the intersection of Hwy 200 and Peninsula Road. The district has automatic aid agreements with Hope/East Hope and Clark Fork fire districts.

Fire Apparatus includes:

Three Type 1 Engines

One Type 6 Engine

Two Type 3 Tenders

Personnel: Eighteen volunteer fire fighters.

Future plans for facilities include a satellite station on Upper Spring Creek Rd.

The Fire Chief expects the district to expand in the near future. Future plans call for the ability to provide fire protection to Warren Island

Needs:

- Satellite fire station
- 4 dry hydrants on the peninsula
- Newer and more reliable Type 6 engine

Sandpoint Fire Department

The district includes the City of Sandpoint. The City has one fire station located at 1123 Lake Street in Sandpoint. There are no plans to expand the district or facilities at this time.

Fire Apparatus includes:

One Type 1 Engine

Two type 2 Engines

Personnel:

Ten paid and seven volunteer fire fighters.

Schweitzer Fire District

The district taxing district covers 640 acres and has one fire station located at 7094 Schweitzer Mountain Road. Since the district has no adjoining boundaries with other fire agencies, they regularly (and are somewhat expected to) cover an additional 12 square miles that includes most of the main road and much of the surrounding ski resort. Additional subdivisions are in the works or planned which border the district. The new subdivisions will need to be annexed into the district sometime in the future. Additional fire substations will be necessary to provide adequate fire protection for the subdivisions.

Fire apparatus includes:

Two Type 1 Engines

One Aerial w/ 1500 gpm pump

One Type 6 Engine

Two Ambulances

Personnel:

One paid and fourteen volunteer fire fighters.

Needs:

- Expansion of community water system to Fire Station
- Substation
- 1200 ft of LDH

Spirit Lake Fire District

Although located in Kootenai County, Spirit Lake provides fire protection for a large area in southwest Bonner County. The total area covered by the Spirit Lake Fire District is 24,204 acres. The district has three fire stations, one at Spirit Lake, at Blanchard, and one at Spirit Lake Cut-off. There are no plans to expand facilities or the district at this time.

Fire apparatus includes:

Three Type 1 Engines
One Type 2 Engine
Two Type 5 Engines
Two Type 6 Engines
Four Type 2 Water Tenders

Personnel:

Seven paid and twenty volunteer fire fighters.

West Bonner Fire District

This district contracts with the City of Newport, Washington for fire protection. West Bonner provides three volunteers for Newport. There are no plans to build facilities or expand the district in Bonner County.

West Pend Oreille Fire District

This district covers 64,000 acres and includes the cities of Priest River and Oldtown.

There is one fire station located on Hwy 57 near the airport in Priest River and a second station downtown in Priest River. Future expansion plans include a new station on the Old Priest River Road south east of Oldtown, and a new station in the vicinity of the Blue Lake Community Center.

Fire apparatus includes:

Five Type 1 Engines
Two Type 2 Engines
Four Type 6 Engines
One Type 7 Engine
Two Type 2 Water Tender
One Type 3 Water Tender

Personnel:

Fifty-one volunteer fire fighters.

Needs:

- New Fire station on Old Priest River Rd.
- Site acquisition and new fire station in vicinity of Blue Lake Community Hall
- Dry hydrants at river locations (6)

- Hose, 1 ½", 1 ¾", 2 ½", nozzles and fittings
- 1 Type 5 Engine (Wildland)
- Tender 2500 or 3000 gallon
- Additional fire hydrants in Priest River (8)
- Replace fire hydrants in Priest River (17)
- PPE, Structural (25)
- SCBA's
- 20 Handheld radios, narrowband (P25)
- Radio Repeater Station
- 12 Mobile Radios, narrowband (P25)
- AEDs
- New style Wildland shelters.

West Priest Lake Fire District

The district has two fire stations. One station is located at Nordman and the other is located at Kalispell Bay. The district covers 10 square miles. A third fire station is planned for the Lamb Creek area. There are no plans to expand the district at this time.

Fire apparatus includes:

Two Type 1 Engines

One Type 3 Tender

One 3000 Gal. Tender

One type 4 Fire Boat

Personnel: The District has twenty-five volunteer fire fighters

Needs:

- New Fire Station in the Lamb Creek area
- Two new trucks Triple Combination, Class 1 Engines
- Two Type 2 water tenders (3000 gallon, 250 gpm pump)
- New Fire Boat (750 gpm pump)
- Wildland PPE
- Structural PPE
- SCBA's
- Hose; 5", 2 ½", 1 ¾", nozzles and fittings
- Portable injection fans
- Fire tools, (axes, pike poles, etc)
- Radios, mobile and handheld, P-25 compatible
- Ladders
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Gas detector
- Two AED's
- CAFS system, slide in
- Air Compressor and cascade system for filling air bottles for SCBA's

Westside Fire District

The district covers 13,458 acres and recently annexed Laclede that includes additional acres. The district has two fire stations. One station is located in Dover and the other is located at Laclede. A new station in Dover has been completed. Construction may begin this spring on a new station for Wrenco. Plans also include completion of a training facility/office for the Laclede Station.

Fire apparatus includes:

Three Type 1 Engines

Three Type 2 Engines

One Type 3 Engine

One Type 6 Engine

One Ladder Truck (105') w/2000 gpm pump

One 2500 gal. Tender

One 2000 gal Tender

One 1800 gal. Tender

One 1200 gal. Tender

One 1000 gal. Tender

Two jet skis with trailer

Three ambulances (2 ILS, 1 ALS CCT)

Equipment expected soon includes 6-wheel Gator with fire fighting and EMS capabilities and Fire boat with 3000 gpm pump

Personnel:

Two paid and twenty volunteer fire fighters.

Needs:

- 3 dry hydrants
- Water storage system at remote station
- Barricade Gel Package
- Replace 1 or 2 of the 6x6 water tenders

Idaho Department of Lands Resources

In general, Idaho Department of Lands is responsible for fire suppression on private and public lands within their response area. In Bonner County, the Department of Lands has two Protection Districts, one for the Priest Lake area and the other for the remaining portions of the county.

Priest Lake Forest Protective District

The Priest Lake District includes the east side of Priest Lake north to the Bonner Co./Boundary Co. line. The District has one fire station located at Coolin, Idaho near Priest Lake.

Fire apparatus includes:

One Type 4 Engine

One Type 5 Engine

One Type 6 Engine

One Type 7 Engine

One Medium Dozer (Cat D-5)

Personnel:

Three permanent and eleven seasonal paid employees.

There are no plans to expand facilities at this time

Pend Oreille Forest Protective District

The Pend Oreille District includes all of Bonner County except for the area covered by the Priest Lake District and the areas covered by the U.S. Forest Service. The District has one fire station located in Sandpoint.

Fire apparatus includes:

One Type 4 Engine

One Type 6 Engine

Two Type 7 Engines

One Type 3 Dozer

One Type 3 Water Tender

There are no plans to expand facilities at this time.

United States Forest Service resources

The Forest Service is responsible for suppression of fires on federal lands and private lands within their response area

Priest Lake Ranger District

The Priest Lake Ranger District covers the west side of Priest Lake north to the Bonner County line.

Fire apparatus includes:

One Type 4 Engine

Two Type 6 Engines

Sandpoint Ranger District

This district covers the east side of Bonner County and Lake Pend Oreille to the Montana border, south to Farragut State park and north to Elmira Peak.

Fire apparatus includes:

Two Type 4 Engines

One Type 6 Engine

There are no plans for expansion.

County-wide Concerns

The issues of life safety, including fire fighter safety, water supply, communications, training and public education remain at the forefront as described in the original Plan. Development continues in remote areas of the county without regard to water supply for fire fighting purposes. The development of dry hydrants of a standardized design will assist in times of mutual aid. Better still would be a requirement for developers to address the issue of water supply.

Interoperable communications is a theme at all levels from Homeland Security to county emergency planning. Some advances are being made at the state and local levels in the development of communications plans. For years first responders have encountered difficulties when attempting to communicate between agencies: the most common problem being that each discipline uses a separate frequency. The communications plans, and other protocols instituted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, such as requiring all radios purchased with federal grant funds to be P25 compliant are meant to address these gaps in the ability of agencies to communicate with each other. Implementation, particularly the costs associated with replacing and purchasing new equipment and the availability of the hardware are among the largest hurdles at this time. Changing the frequencies and radios does not address the other problems of "dead spots" and voids where signals don't penetrate due to extreme terrain or areas without adequate repeater coverage. Working toward a resolution of the communications problems is identified in the Preparedness Action Plan section of this document.

Training is being conducted by the Bonner County LEPC during table-top exercises. These sessions help work out some of the logistics of a local large scale emergency. Needs still exist in the identification of personnel to fill the Command and General staff positions in the event a local disaster occurs. Once identified, training for the specific positions needs to take place.

It is recommended that the County adopt the International Fire Code in its entirety and that it be applicable for all new construction across the county, not just subdivisions.

Educating the public to be aware of wildfires, and the threat they pose to life and property must be a constant and consistent process. The ever changing and increasing population demands an education program that addresses the differing knowledge and experience levels of residents, and requires frequent repetition to reach the maximum audience. The development of new brochures, programs for schools, fairs and other public gatherings is a primary function of the BONFIRE Program.

The development of a new BONFIRE web site will aid in the Public Awareness campaign. It will strengthen communication with the public and the local fire districts.

The original Plan, page 27, stated the need for a Fire Safe Ordinance very clearly. The chances a structure will survive a wildfire are increased when a defensible space is created around the home or business. Bonner County Fire Chiefs continue to work with the county to develop ordinances that enhance the work of BONFIRE and to adopt standards and codes that support the Fire Safe environment.

MITIGATION AND ACTION PLAN

The Bureau of Land Management has designated all of the communities in Bonner County as Communities at Risk to wildfire. Consequently all of Bonner County is designated as a high priority area. The terrain and fuel conditions that exist across the county dictate that all areas are at equal risk to wildfire. The risk to individual homes and businesses can be assessed at the time of participation in BONFIRE.

The BONFIRE Steering Committee has purposely not been rigid when setting priorities for HFT projects. Funds provided through the National Fire Plan vary by agency and program; some carry restrictions with significant limitations where and how they may be used. When unrestricted, consolidated funds are available they allow the program the flexibility to meet the needs of the greatest number of residents.

MITIGATION OF WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Goals and Objectives: Reduce the risk to life and property, increase fire fighter and public safety and reduce fire suppression costs.

Who is Responsible: Bonner County through the BONFIRE program in cooperation with private property owners, Federal, state, and local government agencies, and fire departments and protection districts.

Funding Sources: National Fire Plan, State Fire Assistance Hazard Mitigation Program, Idaho Dept. of Lands: Forest Stewardship Program, Idaho Dept. of Lands: Communities at Risk, Bureau of Land Management.

Timeframe for Completion: Ongoing

Protecting lives, property, natural resources and the economy in Bonner County is the number one priority of the BONFIRE program. BONFIRE has determined that hazardous fuels treatment around homes provides an effective means to meet that goal. Over 700 structures have been protected to date in Bonner County. Additionally the landowner can improve safety by cleaning the roof and gutters, screening a deck or porch and utilizing fire resistive building and landscaping materials. These items are identified when an assessment of the home is made during the initial contact with the Project Manager.

Hazardous Fuels Treatment Beyond Defensible Space

Hazardous fuels treatment as part of the implementation strategy for the National Fire Plan focuses on a collaborative effort among local, state, and federal governments in setting priorities that emphasize protection for communities and high-priority watersheds at risk. The creation of defensible space around individual homes is only a part of a strategy necessary to ensure adequate protection from wildfire. It is beneficial to perform hazardous fuels treatment (HFT) beyond and in addition to defensible space within the Wildland Urban Interface in order to more completely address the threat from wildfire. For purposes of this plan, **the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) includes any area within two miles of dwellings used for human habitation and/or infrastructure that serves these points of habitation** (see Appendix A for a complete definition of Wildland Urban Interface).

Projects proposed on state and federal land within/or adjacent to the WUI can greatly reduce the threat to life and property from wildfire. A list of proposed USDA Forest Service and BLM HFT projects that would provide added protection to the WUI can be found in Appendix H. Where possible, BONFIRE HFT work associated with the mitigation strategy of this plan has been coordinated and, if practicable, co-located near or adjacent to USDA Forest Service and BLM HFT projects.

PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

The Preparedness Action Plan presented in the Original Plan remains in effect. It should be noted that the Timeframe for Completion for the individual actions is "Ongoing". This plan will be reviewed annually, and updated as appropriate.

Public Education

Funding through the National Fire Plan has a lot to say about how we go about making our county safer for fire fighters and the public with respect to wildfire. The emphasis is shifting from hazardous fuels treatment work on the ground using grant money to a program of education of the public to be more self reliant and responsible for one's own situation. BONFIRE expects to take a more aggressive education role by providing literature, workshops and programs aimed at the individual homeowner to assist in developing defensible space. On the ground projects will consist of fuel breaks and community projects aimed at protecting larger groups of homes and communities at large.

CONCLUSIONS

BONFIRE is well on its way to providing an effective and proactive program for Bonner County residents to protect themselves from wildfire. The County Wildfire Protection Plan is meant to be a living and adaptable document. The public is encouraged to become involved and provide input because, "we are all in this together." In the event of wildfire, every chain is only as strong as it weakest link. Therefore, it is our goal to make every link as strong as possible.

APPENDIX H

Status of Bonner County Projects on BLM Managed Public Lands

I. Elmira Stand Density Reduction and Species Restoration

A. Prescribed burning and a reforestation effort on approximately 60 acres of public land. This portion of the project would reduce hazardous fuels and through reforestation efforts, move the site towards a cover type more closely resembling its historic species composition. After broadcast burning of the site, scheduled for fall of 2008, rust-resistant western white pine, western larch and ponderosa pine would be planted. The site is located in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 18, T. 59 N., R. 1 W.

II. East Harlem Fuels Reduction and Thinning

A. Reduce hazardous fuels and remove smaller diameter in-growth on approximately 40 acres of public land thus releasing the larger diameter trees present on-site. The timber sale has been completed. A slashing/machine piling contract will be awarded in 2008 with work potentially beginning late during the field season. The project area is located on Long Mountain approximately four miles southwest of Cocolalla Lake in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T. 55 N., R. 3 W.

III. Schweitzer Mountain Road Fuel Break

A. The treatment on public lands would primarily entail the removal of brush and smaller diameter trees 100 feet below and 50 feet above the road by hand and by mechanical means (masticator on a small tracked excavator) thus reducing hazardous surface fuels, ladder fuels and opening the forest canopy. The activity and natural fuels would be either hand piled or mechanically piled and subsequently burned or chipped; or masticated on-site. Monitoring will consist, at a minimum, of pre- and post-treatment photos taken at representative sites.

B. The legal description for this treatment on public lands is T. 57 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 4, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and T. 58 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 28, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$. Total public land acreage to be treated would be less than 20 acres. Upon completion of the categorical exclusion, this treatment should be completed during the 2008 field season.

IV. Gold Mountain Fuels Reduction Project

A. Currently a conceptual project. Inventory of forest vegetation and fuels data would be initiated during no sooner than the 2009 field season. Based on the data collected, future treatments would be proposed in collaboration with

adjacent landowners, interested publics, Bonner County and other federal, state and local agencies. Following analysis via NEPA, treatments would not be initiated until at least 2010. The project area includes those public lands located in Sections 6, 7, and 8, T. 56 N., R. 1 W. and Sec. 12, T. 56 N., R. 2 W.

V. Little Sand Creek Watershed Fuels Reduction/Forest Health Project

A. Currently a conceptual project. Inventory would be required to be completed prior to initiation of any proposed treatments. Inventory efforts could be initiated as soon as the 2009 field season. Based on the data collected, future treatments would be proposed in collaboration with adjacent landowners, interested publics, Bonner County, City of Sandpoint, and other federal, state and local agencies. The project area would include those public lands located in Sections 4, 5, and 6, T. 57 N., R. 2 W. and Sections 28, 29, 30 and 34, T. 58 N., R. 2 W.

VI. Long Mountain #3 Mechanical Piling

A. Implement a mechanical piling contract for logging slash located on public land in the NE¼SW¼, Sec. 28, T. 55 N., R. 3 W. With the logging slash now piled, the piles will be burned during the fall/winter of 2008 followed by reforestation with rust-resistant western white pine and western larch in the spring of 2009.

USDA Forest Service, Sandpoint ID, 5-year fuels program

1: Projects currently in Implementation phase:

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Wrenco Loop	Improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatments	National Forest system lands in the Johnson Creek drainage, approximately 8 air miles west of Sandpoint, ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety and improve Condition Class/forest health.	680 Acres
Sam Owen	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing forest Condition Class on National Forest System land adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System lands on the Hope Peninsula.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety and improve Condition Class/forest health.	280
Little Blacktail Ecosystem Restoration	Improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Reduce hazardous fuels improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment	National Forest System Lands three air miles from Cocolalla Lake and approximately 12 air miles south of Sandpoint, ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1,231 acres

2. Projects where planning (NEPA) is complete:

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
West Gold	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands with in the Gold Creek drainage, approximately 2 mile southwest of Lakeview, Idaho.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1,338 acres
South Grouse (move this project to the implementation section).	Reduce hazardous fuels within the project area to lessen wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure, private and National Forest System lands, and resource values.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands with in the Grouse Mountain area, near the community of Sagle Idaho and the rural residences of Garfield Bay.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	965 acres

3. Projects where planning is currently underway or being worked on:

Project	Completion Priority/ Year	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Tumbledown	5/2008	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands within Tumbledown Creek drainage. It is located on the east shores of Lake Pend Oreille near the rural residences of Cedar Creek and Lakeview ID	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	671 acres
Rising Cougar	3/2009	Improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Reduce hazardous fuels improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary within the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest lands that face Lake Pend Oreille between East Hope and the Montana border.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	2,372 acres
Gold Crown	5/2008	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest lands on Gold Hill, near the community of Sagle and the rural residences around the shores of Lake Pend Orielle.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety safety, and improve Condition	610 acres

					Class/forest health.	
Schweitzer	12/2009	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest lands in the Sand Creek drainage downhill from the structures and residences near the Schweitzer mountain ski hill.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	Unknown at this time.
Careywood	12/2010	Reduce hazardous fuels within the project area to lessen wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure, private and National Forest System lands, and resource values.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands near the rural residences of Carywood and Farragut Idaho.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	110 acres
Talache	2/2009	Reduce hazardous fuels within the project area to lessen wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure, private and National Forest System lands, and resource values.	Decrease the risk of wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical fuels treatment.	National Forest System Lands near the rural residences of Talache Landing.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribe fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	Unknown at this time.

4: Future projects in concept:

Future Fuels projects identified for which no formal planning efforts have yet occurred:

Sugar Ant

Ponder Granite

Kilroy Bay

Lakeview

Trestle Creek

Green Bay Campground

Jewel/ Horn Mountain

US Forest Service Priest Lake RD WUI treatments being considered in Bonner County, Idaho.

Projects currently in Planning phase

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Lakeview Reeder HFRA (formerly Kalispell and Granite-Reeder projects)	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the lower reaches of Granite Cree, Kalispell Creek, and Reeder Creek, adjacent to private land within the Nordman area.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Total project area is 30,000 acres. Treat estimated 3,800 acres within Bonner County.
Lower Priest	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment	National Forest System lands within the Murray Cr-Cottonwood Pt/Cr area.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat estimated 1,000 acres within Bonner County.

Projects currently in Implementation phase

Project	Summary (Purpose and Need)	Benefit to the Community	Location	Description	Acres
Lakeface Lamb Fuels Reduction	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the existing Lakeface Lamb Fuels Reduction Project area, located adjacent to private land and federal lease lots within and adjacent to the Lamb Creek community.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning, hand piling, and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	1700 acres
Kedish Ridge	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning	National Forest System lands along Kedish Ridge	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical	Treat 400 acres.

	changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	in the Reynolds Creek and Lamb Creek drainages 8 miles south of Nordman.	harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	
57 Bear Paws	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands adjacent to private property and emergency egress routes in the Lower West Branch drainage, approximately 11 miles north of Priest River.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning, hand piling, and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat 700 acres
Gleason Pine	Improve forest health and watershed integrity. Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class within the Wildland Urban Interface	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Moores Creek drainage, approximately 17 miles north of Priest River.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health.	Treat 62 acres.
High Bridge - Outlet Fuels CE (HBO) (combined projects formerly named Dubius and Outlet to High Bridge)	Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health by changing Condition Class along Forest Boundary adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface.	Decrease the risk of a wildland fire burning structures or forest resources. Provide economic opportunities through timber sale/mechanical treatment.	National Forest System lands within the Dubius and Upper West Branch drainages, adjacent to private land and along emergency egress routes.	Treat National Forest System lands with mechanical harvest/thinning, hand piling, and prescribed fire to reduce the risk of crown fire, improve firefighter and public safety, and improve Condition Class/forest health	Treat approximately 900 acres within the estimated 3800 acre project area

Future Fuels projects identified for which no formal planning efforts have yet occurred:

Kavanaugh Pee Wee
South Falls
West Quartz
Tunnel
Lower West Branch Flats
West Fork Moores
Gleason Meadow

Squaw Valley and Goose Creek
Dickensheet to High Bridge
Lamb Creek
Priest Lake Islands
Hanna Flats
Beaver Cr CE
Stone Johnny